Author's response to reviews

Title: Can cholesterol be used to distinguish pleural exudates from transudates? Evidence from a bivariate meta-analysis

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Author's response to reviews: see over
January 16, 2014
To: BMC Pulmonary Medicine
Dear Editor:

We would be grateful if you would consider the attached manuscript entitled with “Can cholesterol be used to distinguish pleural exudates from transudates? Evidence from a bivariate meta-analysis” for publication in BMC Pulmonary Medicine.

Many studies have investigated the usefulness of pleural cholesterol measurements for pleural exudates diagnosis but with considerable variance of results. Our study aimed to determine the overall performance of pleural cholesterol and pleural fluid to serum cholesterol ratio in identifying pleural exudates. Our study included 20 studies and our results suggested that both pleural cholesterol and pleural fluid to serum cholesterol ratio are helpful for the diagnosis of pleural exudates. The measurement of cholesterol levels in pleural effusions and serum is thus likely to be a useful method for diagnosing pleural exudates. To our best knowledge, this is the first meta-analysis to investigate the overall diagnostic role of pleural cholesterol for pleural exudates. We believe these findings may be of particular interest to the readers of your journal.

We confirm that our results presented in this manuscript have not been published elsewhere, nor are they being considered for publication in another journal. The manuscript has been reviewed and approved by all listed authors. None of the authors has conflicts of interest to report with regard to this manuscript.

Many thanks for your consideration.
Sincerely yours,
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